

OVER THE GARDEN GATE



The Newsletter of the Valley Gardeners Club

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10 and/or March 17, 2018 - 1:30 pm. Creating Your Own Succulent Arrangement. Bunchberry Nurseries. Cost \$30.00 + HST includes everything but container. To register call Jill at 532-7777 or jill@bunchberrynurseries.ca/

March 12, 2018 - Valley Gardeners monthly meeting. 7:30 Kingstec. "The Sunshine Coast in March", a tour of Dorset gardens with club member Sue Rouleau. If you have extra seeds, bring them along to share with members.

April 14, 2018 - District 5 Annual Meeting, The Forties Community Hall. Registration 8:30-9:30 am. Closes at about 3:15 pm. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non members and includes lunch. Register at the March VG meeting. This is always a fun time so try your best to attend! There will be a plant exchange and photo contest. . See details at the end of this newsletter

May 12, 2018 - Valley Gardeners Plant Sale. Starts at 9:30 (new time). This is our main fund-raiser so start thinking now what you will be able to bring to sell. Larry Marsters is Plant Sale Chair.

May 12, 2018 - Rare and Unusual Plant Sale. Farmer's Market, Annapolis Royal. 1-4 pm. Freeman Patterson is the guest speaker and will be giving his presentation at Kings Theatre after the sale. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2091242284437711/>

May 12 2018 - Valley African Violet Society's Show and Tea 2-4pm at the St. John's United Church Hall in Middleton, NS. Admission; free.

June 1 and 2, 2018. - NSAGC Annual Meeting, Days Inn, Bridgewater. Program, registration form and other info on the NSAGC Website under Convention.

August 18, 2018 - Valley Gardener's Horticultural Show, Kingstec. Watch for the Show Schedule.

The Halifax Garden Festival will be held during Garden Days again! Stay tuned for details

Please advise us if you know of upcoming events of interest.

CLUB NEWS

Your Program Committee has been busy putting the final touches on this year's slate of events. The tentative schedule for the year will be available soon.

We do ask for your input on the September "event" For years now this has been a corn boil and hot dogs social. With our older generation not finding corn as easy to deal with, and the younger generation trying to stay away from processed foods such as hot dogs, there has been discussion on changing it to a harvest pot luck. Now that we are using the Wolfville Market with refrigeration and stoves, it allows us to adhere to food safety guidelines which we couldn't do at the picnic park. September is harvest time in the Valley and would be a great time to celebrate our abundance of produce.

Please help the committee by sending an e-mail to sparrowsong@eastlink.ca with either "corn boil" or "pot luck" in the subject line. Easy/peasy and will help us to decide the wishes of the club.

If the selection is a Corn Boil, we will probably ask people to register to come so we don't have so much food waste.

A WORD ABOUT LATIN

Last month's article on primula and hellebores may have caused your eyes to glaze over when you saw the list of Latin names. However, there is no way around it. You don't have to be a botanist, but it comes in handy when you are in a friend's garden and see a plant you love. What's that? you say. They spew out a Latin name with several syllables. You sigh and walk on. Or you say what is its common name? They say primrose. Now you see the problem. To which of the primroses in the last article did they refer? Aah...see my point? Learn the botanical names of a few of your favourite plants so you aren't left in a quandary. Neither does it do to pretend you know when the salesman says they have a beautiful Aegopodium, green, lovely umbels of white flowers, a member of the carrot family. Don't be fooled. You are buying gout weed!

ON THE NET

The RHS recommends the following to attract pollinators to your garden:

- Don't be too tidy
- Let some grass grow long
- Let the dandelions grow
- Plant lavender or sedums
- Leave some nettles
- Have a wood pile in an undisturbed corner

For more: <http://www.littlegreenspace.org.uk/features/Insect-garden.html>

LEAVES

I hope I can buy pansies soon.....

there was a wavering crease in the winter sky today,
spring jumped through.

spring rode on that sliver of tender warmth
and skipped across the puddles of ice bound water
touched the crusted snow, fingered lifeless brown leaves

spring had the shroud of tomorrow about its shoulders
and dabbed a little on the crocus leaves, the hellebore
and even the prickled rose stems, who yet hid their buds

spring called across to the mud bound tulips, the iris,
to daffodils who under the soil, lay thinking of the blue sky
and the curly willow branches wiggled in the newborn wind

spring felt the snowflakes, and knew her time had not yet come
and allowed a cold breeze to pull her back into the clouds
I shall buy a mass of pansies, who won't stop calling her name.

crystal trojek - *Inside the Garden Walls* Vol I

Crystal is a member of Garden Clubs of Ontario, a consistent winner in competitive floral design, and has served in various capacities in horticultural societies and Master Gardeners of Ontario. Crystal is also a published author in a number of gardening publications. (crystaltrojek.com.)

DISTRICT 5 MEETING PLANT EXCHANGE AND PHOTO CONTEST

PHOTO CONTEST

Bring your favorite garden photo to the District 5 Annual meeting on Saturday, April 14.

This does not have to be the photo that you will enter at the NSAGC Provincial level.

This contest is for fun.

Rules:

- Photo must be taken by the person entering the photo.
- The photo must be taken in the last 12 months.
- The photo must contain one or more of the following: a landscape, flower, tree or vegetable.
- The photo may contain people, but that person is not to be the sole focus of the photo.
- The photo is to be 8 x 10 unframed.
- The photo may be in colour or black and white.
- All photos will be put on display.
- Each person in attendance will be given one ballot to vote for their favorite photo. "People's Choice"
- Photographer's name, club and date of picture will be tag on the back of the photo.
- All photos will be returned at the end of the day
- To enter your photo. Your photo must be received by 8:50 am on April 14, 2018 at the registration desk of the Annual District 5 meeting.

The winner will be determined by the photo with the most votes.

The winner will receive a \$50 Lee Valley gift card.

NSAGC District 5 Plant Exchange

Members are encouraged to bring plants so that there is something to exchange. You will receive one ticket for each plant you bring. Please limit the number of plants you bring to no more than 4. The size of your plant or possibly the type of plant will determine the number of tickets you will get.

Guidelines for the NSAGC District 5 Plant Exchange

Identifying the plants: Please label your plants with as much information you are able to provide. For example, name (or common), growing conditions, (sun, shade, etc.), height, color, bloom time (spring, summer, fall) and anything else you may find helpful to share. If you know that the plant may be invasive, please provide that information as well.

Check-in: It is a good idea to bring a plant flat or box to use to carry plants during the exchange. You will receive tickets for the plants you bring. The tickets are used to pay for the plants you select at the exchange. During the check-in period the plants are organized on the tables in the pavilion.

The Exchange: Everyone that has received tickets will be given the opportunity to select one plant with their tickets. When everyone with a ticket has had the opportunity to get one plant, then the second round begins. There will be an announcement when the time is open for the plant exchange. Depending on the number of plants received, this may happen a few times throughout the day.

Check-out: Bring your selections to the check-out table and pay for them with your tickets. If you don't have enough tickets, you can use cash for the balance. The value of each ticket is \$1.

DID YOU KNOW

The new spring issue, #32: Garden Solutions, will be the last print edition of Garden Making magazine. The issue will include details. They will continue to support the gardening community through the gardenmaking.com website and their email newsletters. In the online world, they will try to be both national (with gardening information) and local (with events listings and reader photos). It is so sad to see yet another Canadian gardening magazine unable to continue, especially one that showed high standards of writing and an understanding of the Canadian gardening scene. Wishing them success in their online endeavour. Our club events are posted there for your information.

FROM THE GARDEN RECIPE BOX

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES WITH HORSERADISH SAUCE

Home cooking with winter vegetables. A pretty way to serve your family or visitors.

- 1 4-lb chicken
- 4 carrots, cut in 2" strips
- 1 small rutabaga cut in 2" cubes
- 3 leeks, white part only, cut into 3" strips; or: 2 medium onions, cut in rings
- 3 stalks celery, in 2" strips
- 1 small white cabbage cut in 6 wedges
- 2 small potatoes, quartered
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1 clove garlic

Place chicken in soup kettle. Add vegetables. Pour broth and wine over all. Add garlic. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 40 minutes, or until chicken and vegetables are tender. Drain the Chicken and vegetables. Arrange on a hot platter with chicken in the centre and vegetables surrounding. Keep warm

Horseradish sauce:

- 2 Tbsp. Butter
- 1 Tbsp. Plus 2 tsp. Flour
- 1 cup chicken broth
- ¼ cup horseradish
- ½ cup cream

For horseradish sauce: In a saucepan, make a roux of butter and flour. Stir in the chicken broth, stirring constantly with a wire whisk. Bring to a boil and reduce heat. Stir in horseradish and cook over low heat until sauce thickens. Gradually stir in cream. Pour a small amount over the chicken. Serve remaining sauce separately.

GOT NEWS???

Send to: Editor: Donna Crawford, sparrowsong@eastlink.ca.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Valley Gardener's Club.

There are purposely no coloured pictures in the newsletters to allow for less expensive black and white printing.



The Valley Gardners is a member of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs.
<http://www.nsagc.com>